productivity of paddy has increased from 1450 kg/ha. (2004-05) to 1537 kg/ha. (2006-07).

Per capita availability of milk

3996. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per capita availability and consumption of milk is very low when compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to increase the production of milk so as to increase the availability and consumption of milk in the country;

(d) whether the price of milk and milk products rises steadily and make it out of the reach of poor and lower middle class people; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make the prices of milk and milk products cheaper to the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The per capita availability of milk in India during 2005-06 is 241gms per day, which is very low as compared to developed countries. However, India stands first in the milk production. Low productivity of animal and large human population are the main reasons for lower per capita availability. As per National Sample Survey Organization's latest quinquennial round (2004-05), the per capita consumption during 2004-05 in rural India is 129 gms per day and in urban India it is 170 gms per day whereas the per capita consumption per day for some of the developed countries during 2005, as per FAOSTAT website is as follows:

Countries	*per capita milk consumption (gm'day)*
France	865
Sweden	863
Switzerland	857
Germany	724
USA	703
UK	661
Italy	572

(c) In addition to the steps taken by State Governments, the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by way of the following schemes to improve the quality and the quantity of milk in the country:

(i) National Project for Cattle and Buffalo Breeding

(ii) Livestock Health and Disease Control Programme

(iii) Fodder Development Scheme

(iv) Intensive Dairy Development Programme

(v) Assistance to Cooperatives

(vi) Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production

(d) There has been lincrease in prices of milk and milk products during the year 2005-06 which continued in the year 2006-07 resulting in lower demand of milk and milk products among poor and middle class people.

(e) The main reason for increase in price of milk during the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 was due to increase in prices of milk powder in the international market resulting in increase in domestic prices of milk and milk product. In order to prevent further increase in prices of milk and milk products, Government of India has banned export of milk powder with effect from 9.2.2007, which shall remain in force till 30.9.2007.

Co-operation of Farmers' Organisation, Gram Sabhas and private sector on establishment of SAZs

3997. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that eminent agriculture scientist, Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has advised the setting up of a Special Agricultural Zones (SAZs) in the country on the lines of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to achieve food security and food sovereignty through sustainable agriculture practices;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on setting up of Special Agricultural Zones in the country;